



Testimony in Support of Sections 4 and 5 of HB 7260, An Act Concerning the Use and Regulation of Drones

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.
Executive Director
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Joint Committee on Judiciary
March 15, 2017

Dear Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, Representative Rebimbas, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kevin Dillon, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA). **I am submitting this testimony in support of Sections 4 and 5 of HB 7260, An Act Concerning the Use and Regulation of Drones.**

The CAA thanks the Committee for raising this important issue. As many members of the Committee may know, many regulatory aspects related to the operations of unmanned aircraft are within the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). However, HB 7260 appears to keep its focus on issues within the purview of state government. While the CAA does not have a position at this time on certain aspects of this legislation, including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by law enforcement officers, we are pleased that the Committee has included Sections 4 and 5 to establish misdemeanor penalties for reckless endangerment with an unmanned aerial vehicle. First and foremost, the CAA is committed to helping ensure the safety of aviation in the State of Connecticut. While drone technology holds great promise in a number of innovative applications, it is critical that operators use these devices responsibly. Sections 4 and 5 of HB 7260 properly emphasize the need for operators to keep a safe distance from other aircraft, and the CAA supports including such provisions in any form of drone regulations established by the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please feel free to contact my office at (860) 292-2054 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.
Executive Director
Connecticut Airport Authority